Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 RSC-01 DRC-01 /048 W

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R 130359Z NOV 73 FM AMEMBASSY MANILA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9131 INFO USMISSIN USUN USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: UNDP, RP

SUBJECT: UNDP-PHILIPPINE CANDIDACY FOR GOVERNING COUNCIL PRESIDENCY AND DESIRE TO HOST JUNE 1974 SESSION

- 1. EMBOFF CONVEYED TO DFA (SHAHANI UN AFFAIRS)
 DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON REYES' CANDIDACY AND ON
 PROPOSED HOLDING OF JUNE 1974 COUNCIL SESSION IN MANILA.
 AT HER REQUEST, INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED IN AIDE-MEMOIRE.
- 2. SHAHANI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR STATEMENT OF USG POSITION. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY RE POSITION LIKELY TO BE TAKEN BY ASIAN COUNTRIES, SHE POINTED OUT THAT INDIA WAS ALSO SEEKING GC PRESIDENVY, ADDING THAT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO INDUCE INDIA TO WITHDRAW, BUT THERE WAS POSSIBILITY ASIAN COUNTRIES WILL BE SPLIT ON ISSUE.
- 3. ASKED WHETHER SELECTION OF A FILIPINO FOR UNDP POST MIGHT AFFECT CANDIDACY OF BRILLANTES FOR SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD, SHAHANI SAID TIMING WAS UNFORTUNATE BUT FORUMS AND METHODS OF SELCTION FOR TWO POSTS WERE COMPLETELY SEPARATE. UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD FILL UNCTAD POST BY APPOINTMENT, PROBABLY IN DECEMBER, WHILE UNDP COUNCIL WOULD ITSELF ELECT CHAIRMAN IN JANUARY. SHE POINTED OUT THAT UNTIL RECENTLY GOP HAD BEEN RELATIVELY PASSIVE IN SEEKING SENIOR UN POSTS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEELS THAT IN VIEW OF ITS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN UN AND

RELATED ACTIVITIES, PHILIPPINES MERITS GREATER RECOGNITION IN THIE RESPECT. SHAHANI NOTED PHILIPPINES NOW HAS SEVERAL ABLE AND EXPERIENCED AMBASSADORS IN UN AFFAIRS WHO ARE EMINENTLY SUITABLE FOR POSITIONS THEY ARE SEEKING.

- 4. EMBASSY SUPPORTS USUN PROPOSAL THAT USG GIVE MORE FORTHRIGHT SUPPORT TO REYES' CANDIDACY AND FOR APPROVAL OF MANILA AS VENUE OF JUNE GC SESSION. SHAHANI SAID GOP HAS MUCH EXPERIENCE IN HOLDING LARGE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, AND ADEQUATE FACILITIES WERE AVAILABLE DESPITE LACK OF A PERMANENT CONFERENCE CENTER.
- 5. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY REGARDS REYES' CANDIDACY FAVORABLY, AND AWARE OF HIS CONNECTIONS AND CAPABILITIES, WE QUESTION THAT UNDP ROLE WOULD QUALIFY HIM AS SUCCESSOR TO ROMULO OR THAT ROMULO EVEN BEGINNING TO THINK ABOUT RETIRING. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 NOV 1973 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MANII A12717

Document Number: 1973MANILA12717 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: MANILA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731137/aaaabbjf.tel Line Count: 80

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ACTION IO

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: golinofr

Review Content Flags: Review Date: 31 JAN 2002 **Review Event:**

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2002 by golinofr>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: UNDP-PHILIPPINE CANDIDACY FOR GOVERNING COUNCIL PRESIDENCY AND DESIRE TO HOST JUNE 1974 SESSION

TAGS: AORG, RP, UNDP, (REYES)

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005